

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner composition comprising toner particles, said particles comprising a binder resin and a release agent, wherein when the toner composition is pressed upon application of a pressure of  $478 \text{ kg/cm}^2$  to form a toner plate, the toner plate has a surface having a coefficient of static friction of from 0.20 to 0.40, wherein the binder resin comprises a non-linear polymer A, a linear polymer B and a polymer C, wherein the polymer C is prepared by at least one of performing a condensation polymerization reaction and an addition polymerization reaction at a same time in a container using a mixture of monomers for the condensation polymerization reaction and the addition polymerization reaction; and performing a condensation polymerization reaction and an addition polymerization reaction independently in a container using a mixture of monomers for the condensation polymerization reaction and the addition polymerization reaction, and wherein the non-linear polymer A, the linear polymer B and the polymer C comprise a polymer unit of the same kind; and wherein the following relationships are satisfied:

$$\underline{T_m(A) > T(C) > T_m(B)}$$

$$\underline{|T_g(A) - T_g(B)| < 10 (^{\circ}\text{C})}$$

$$\underline{30 \leq T_m(A) - T_m(B) \leq 60 (^{\circ}\text{C})}$$

wherein  $T_m(A)$ ,  $T_m(B)$  and  $T_m(C)$  represent softening points of the non-linear polymer A, the linear polymer B and the polymer C, respectively; and  $T_g(A)$  and  $T_g(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures of the non-linear polymer A and the linear polymer B, respectively.

Claim 2 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles have a volume average particle diameter of from 4.0 to 7.5  $\mu\text{m}$  and includes

particles having a particle diameter not greater than 5  $\mu\text{m}$  in an amount of from 60 to 80 % by number.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the release agent comprises a material selected from the group consisting of carnauba waxes, montan waxes and oxidized rice waxes.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the release agent is present in the toner particles in an amount of from 2 to 10 % by weight based on the binder resin in the toner particles.

Claim 5 (Canceled):

Claim 6 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 5, wherein the polymer unit is a unit selected from the group consisting of polyester units and polyamide units.

Claim 7 (Canceled):

Claim 8 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 5, wherein the non-linear polymer A has an acid value of from 20 to 70 mgKOH/g.

Claim 9 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 5, wherein the linear polymer B has an acid value of from 7 to 70 mgKOH/g.

Claim 10 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, wherein the toner particles further comprises a salicylic acid metal compound having at least 3 valence.

Claim 11 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 10, wherein the salicylic acid metal compound is included in the toner particles in an amount of from 0.05 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the binder resin.

Claim 12 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 5, wherein the non-linear polymer A has a hydroxyl value not less than 20 mgKOH/g.

Claim 13 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 1, further comprising an external additive, wherein the toner particles are covered by the external additive at a coverage not less than 20 %.

Claim 14 (Original): The toner composition according composition to Claim 13, wherein the external additive comprises two different inorganic fillers A and B.

Claim 15 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 14, wherein the two different inorganic fillers A and B are a silica and a titanium oxide.

Claim 16 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 14, wherein the two different inorganic fillers A and B have different average primary particle diameters.

Claim 17 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 16, wherein the inorganic filler A has an average primary particle diameter smaller than that of the inorganic filler B and is included in the toner composition in an amount greater than that of the inorganic filler B.

Claim 18 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 16, wherein the inorganic fillers A and B have an average primary particle diameter not greater than 0.03  $\mu\text{m}$  and not greater than 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , respectively.

Claim 19 (Original): The toner composition according to Claim 14, wherein at least one of the inorganic fillers A and B is treated with an organic silane compound.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a toner composition comprising:  
providing a polymer C by at least one of performing a condensation polymerization reaction and an addition polymerization reaction at a same time in a container using a mixture of monomers for the condensation polymerization reaction and addition polymerization reaction; and performing a condensation polymerization reaction and an addition polymerization reaction independently in a container using a mixture of monomers for the condensation polymerization reaction and addition polymerization reaction;  
kneading a mixture comprising the polymer C, a non-linear polymer A, a linear polymer B and a release agent upon application of heat;  
cooling the mixture to solidify the mixture;  
pulverizing the mixture;  
classifying the mixture to prepare toner particles, wherein the non-linear polymer A, the linear polymer B and the polymer C comprise a polymer unit of the same kind; and wherein the following relationships are satisfied:

$$\underline{T_m(A) > T(C) > T_m(B)}$$

$$\underline{|T_g(A) - T_g(B)| < 10 (^{\circ}\text{C})}$$

$$\underline{30 \leq T_m(A) - T_m(B) \leq 60 (^{\circ}\text{C})}$$

wherein  $T_m(A)$ ,  $T_m(B)$  and  $T_m(C)$  represent softening points of the non-linear polymer A, the linear polymer B and the polymer C, respectively; and  $T_g(A)$  and  $T_g(B)$  represent glass transition temperatures of the non-linear polymer A and the linear polymer B, respectively.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to Claim 20, wherein the release agent has a volume average particle diameter of from 10 to 800  $\mu\text{m}$  before mixed with the polymers A, B and C.

Claim 22-36 (Canceled):